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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHCP #0485 2560820
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 120820Z SEP 08
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4446
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0079

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 000485

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/RPM, EUR/NB

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/11/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [NATO](#) [MOPS](#) [MARR](#) [AF](#) [DA](#)
SUBJECT: DENMARK SUPPORTS ISAF OPLAN AMENDMENT, BUT WARY OF
BYPASSING THE MC

REF: STATE 96741

Classified By: Pol/Econ Counselor Bill Mozdzierz, reasons 1.4b,d

¶1. (C) Denmark recognizes the importance of giving NATO forces in Afghanistan broad and flexible authority to conduct counter-narcotics interdictions, consistent with SACEUR's recommendation, Ulrik Petersen of the Danish MFA Security Policy Department assured us September 11. Petersen maintained that Danish representatives have and will continue to advocate that view within the Military Committee, but expressed reservations about taking the issue to the NAC if the Military Committee cannot agree. The Danish government places great importance on securing military advice before taking such decisions in the NAC, Petersen said, and wondered whether the NAC would have better success in resolving the issue than the MC.

¶2. (C) We argued that the issue cannot be allowed to remain blocked in the Military Committee, where some Allies may prefer to see it languish rather than address it in the NAC. The proposal to amend ISAF's OPLAN has the backing of NATO's top military commander and is based on the clear military objective of combatting narcotics trafficking that supports the insurgency we are fighting. We urged the Danish government to continue to back SACEUR's recommendation and to join us in moving the amendment forward.
CAIN